Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549

Bulletin, Vol. XI, No. 1 September, 1984

President: Ray Peters **Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Midwood

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Dig up some dirt from the back yard. Make sure it contains about 35% clay. Add water to make a nice, stiff mud. Add a little emulsified asphalt. Throw in a handful of straw. Shovel into molds. Let stand for six weeks. Your adobe bricks are ready for use.

You will need 7,000 bricks to make a 2,700 square foot home. Once you get the swing of things, you should be able to make 150 bricks each day. Therefore, it will take you only 47 days to make the necessary bricks.

Each brick should measure 4" x 7½" x 16". When you have finished making the bricks, you will have a hole in the ground that is 8 feet deep and 16 feet on each side. You don't want to dig the hole too far away, for the total weight of all the bricks will be 42 tons. Build the house around the hole, and you'll have a free basement.

When you are finished, you will have a house that will last a thousand years, built of materials that are virtually free and easy on the forests. The insulating qualities will be excellent, and the esthetics will rival the stone cottages of the Cotswolds. Nothing could be more representative of a distinctive California style.

Look some over on our upcoming **ADOBE HOME TOUR.**

Ray Peters
President

TOUR LAFAYETTE ADOBES: OCTOBER 28

LHS OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN 1984-85

Ray Peters	President
Richard Johnson	Vice President, Membership
Ruth Dyer	Corresponding Secretary
Shirley Thomson	Recording Secretary
Belinda Quintana	Treasurer
Betsy Willcuts	Archives
George Wasson	Fire Engine
Oliver Hamlin	Oral History
James Craig	Landmarks
Nancy Midwood	Newsletter
Peggy Craig	Newspaper Clippings
Andrew Young	Program
Sandy Kimball	Publicity
Joan Merryman	Sales

ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Contra Costa History Center, created in February to preserve the collection of Louis Stein, is in the process of preserving and inventorying the collection for future cataloging. Members wishing to help may call Andrew Young mornings at 939-9180 to volunteer at the Center which is in Room C5 of the old Grammar School at 1700 Oak Park Boulevard, east of the County Library in Pleasant Hill.

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thanks to the Lafayette Book Store, Conti's Camera Shop and the Chamber of Commerce, both *LaFayette: A Pictorial History*, at $6, and *The Improvers of Lafayette*, at $9.95, are for sale at these convenient locations. The Society appreciates the fact that these books are sold without handling charges, so that the proceeds go to L.H.S. Why not drop in soon and have some local history wrapped up for your holiday gift giving?

ADOBE HOUSE TOUR - SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 28

This unique tour of early Lafayette adobes provides a rare opportunity for you and your friends to glimpse Lafayette's architectural past. The four (possibly five) adobes on the tour were constructed over a wide span of time and are all in Lafayette. As you tour through each one, guides from the Lafayette Historical Society will be on hand to give you historical information in terms of construction dates, design and ownership. Tour starting times will be at 2:00, 2:30 and 3:00 p.m.

Following the tour, you are invited to a light buffet supper with wine at the home of Barbara and Ray Peters at 1324 Martino Road, Lafayette.

With each Newsletter we have enclosed two tickets, priced at $10 per person for the adobe house tour which includes the supper. Guests are welcome. To make your reservation or to order extra tickets for this very special event, call Chairman Dick Johnson at 283-0199. You may also mail your check and completed reservation form to him at

859 Birdhaven Court
Lafayette, CA 94549.

Please indicate your supper plans so that our hosts can be prepared!

The locations will remain unannounced until the tour actually begins. To keep traffic flowing smoothly, you will be assigned a starting time by Dick when you make your reservations. The tour will begin at the Dramateurs (Old Town Hall) at the corner of Moraga Road and School Street. Upon your arrival there a Society member will give you a brochure with a map that will lead you to each of our mystery adobes.

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WALKING TOURS

Conducting walking tours of Lafayette's historical landmarks, and telling the history of our town to its residents, both young and old, and to its visitors, is an important service given by our Society.

We need people to guide these tours. If you are interested, training will be provided.

Please contact Mary McIvor (284-5712) or Betsy Willcuts, (283-0706).

ARCHIVES

The Society's collection of historical pictures is available for reproduction at a per picture cost of $5 to business, $1 to individuals. Items from the Society's collection at the Lafayette Library may be checked out by researchers with the written permission of one of the following archivists: Ray Peters, Joan Merryman, Betsy Willcuts or Sandy Kimball.

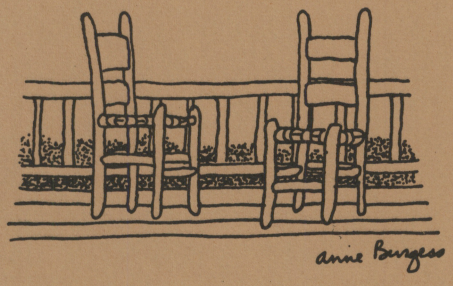
YOUR NEWSLETTER

If you have any suggetions, any information of local historical interest, if there are any articles or news you would like to share with the members of our Society, this newsletter is your means to do just that. We welcome your participation.

Please send your material to: Lafayette Historical Society, P. O. Box 133, Lafayette, CA 94549.

SOCIETY DONATES TO LANDMARK FUND

Proceeds from the annual dinner meeting raffle, augmented by a further Society donation, has resulted in another contribution of $250 to the Methodist Church Landmark Fund.



"A MATTER OF TASTE"

The Lafayette Historical Society's latest display in the rear window at Conti's Camera shop is called "A Matter of Taste." Kitchen furnishings loaned by members include an eighteenth century thumbback chair, nineteenth century butter molds, a string saver, cherry seeder, longhandled waffle iron and several cookbooks.

Also displayed is a picture from the Society's collection, the "annual birthday picnic party of Henry Toler Brown, July 4, 1916" in the back yard of the new family home on Moraga Road (now the site of LaFiesta Shopping Center and Wilkinson Lane). The display, prepared by members, will be on view through October.

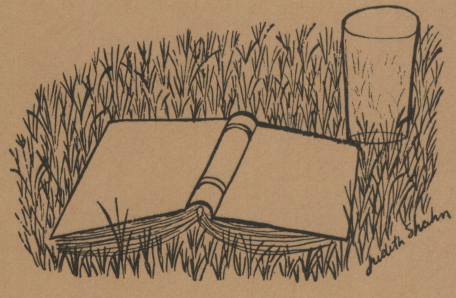
The Pleasant Hill Historical Society is currently displaying an Indian history exhibit which includes an arrowhead collection on loan from Ray Peters.

LAFAYESTA

Saturday, October 13
6:00 p.m. to Midnight

Our city's second annual Lafayesta will be held at Lafayette's Community Center (old Burton Valley School). Lafayette Historical Society, along with other community organizations, is contributing to this huge outdoor dinner and casino night which raises funds for the Community Center.

For more information on this evening in the Old West with barbecue and gamblin', call the Community Center (284-2232) or the Chamber of Commerce (284-4474).



DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE OFFERS LOCAL HISTORY COURSE

#155-03, "Local History: The Gold Rush and After" meets Wednesdays from October 10 - November 14.

#155-04, "Local History: Contra Costa County in the 20th Century" meets Tuesday, November 20, and Wednesdays from November 21 - December 19.

Both units meet in Room F-234 at Diablo Valley College from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and are taught by Ruth Sutter. You may call her for further information at 685-1230, ext. 3381. You may register through the Admissions Office, 685-1310.

First Class Mail

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